



Newsletter

May - June 2005

WASHINGTON KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

No - Nil - Not - Knot with Nik - Nak National Kite Month WKA/PCKA, Orting, April 10, 2005 by Sylvia Bernauer

At least we never got rained--or sprinkled on! More should have taken that chance on the weather.

"Was this the correct day?" I wondered as I arrived at the Lyon's Club field in Orting. It was early in the day, and Dick Curran was on the field, camped out with beach chair, card table and camp stove with hot chocolate brewing. He did get up to wave and show that he did have a kite in the air, attached to his fishing pole winder. Another kite flyer was nearby, working an ultralight sport kite. There was also a young friend with Dick, a neighbor boy who helps with the Curran family animals and gets to share in the fun of flying kites. Down the field were several cars, a much larger group, but then I saw a radio-controlled airplane and knew they were a different group of flyers. The calm morning air was perfect for them.

This is really a great, and big grassy field with lots of room! A bit later more folks arrived and slowly the fly got underway. We all were looking for some wind! It went from almost nothing to a bit then calm again. It was definitely a day for the ultralight. My Nik-Nak and I headed for the field with short, light (50/50) lineset. For you non sport kite flyers, that means 50 foot/50 lb. sport kite line. It was time to get a kite in the air and I wanted to take advantage of the puffs that were currently blowing by. In my haste to lay out my lines and get connected, I got a knot in the flying lines, and it was a goody. I was losing valuable moments of air time, but finally, with the help of the sharp point of a historic WKA kite pin from my Golden Flyer sweatshirt, got the knot loosened, vowing to follow what I preach and use a kite stake to contain the handles (or straps) when laying out lines, even if there is not much wind. It just works for me, and whatever works, works.

By this time there were several sport and single line kites flying, by flyers young and older. There was even the maiden flight of a beautiful John Freeman design kite made by Jerry Graham. There were also Kichi Takos, a Diamond Roller, Harlequin Box and the Umbowers' Replica Potter Kite, (winged box) from this year's classes at Fort Worden.

So, the kites went up, and came down from time to time, but we all had a great time, including the guy flying the neat yellow RC-biplane.

Kite Calendar:

MAY

7-8 Ocean Shores Stunt Kite Competition & Kite Fly
15 BCKA Fun Fly Richmond
www.bcka.bc.ca/Events/may.htm

28-29 Davis Bay, Sechelt, BC
Fun Fly contact
twolees@dccnet.com

JUNE

3-5 Ocean Shores Kite Festival & Stunt Kite competition
c o n t a c t
www.cuttingedgekites.com

18-19-Pacific Rim Kite Festival, Vanier Park, Vancouver

19-WKA Father's Day Fly at Kite Hill, Seattle

21-24-World Sport Kite Championships, Lincoln City, Or. 1-800-452-2151

24-25 NW Stunt Kite Festival, Long Beach, WA

25-26 Licoln City Summer Kite Festival, AOK Website

JULY

1 Canada Day Fun Fly, Richmond
www.bcka.bc.ca/events/jul.htm

8-10 Westport Windriders Kite Festival, Grayland, WA
360-268-0877

23-24 Northwest Sport Kite Competition . Garry Point Park, Steveston

www.bcka.bc.ca/events/ssk.htm

World Kite Museum Events

Spirits of 1805 in the Sky - May 21 & 22

John Pollock, Grand Champion Winner of the American Kite Association's Comprehensive Kite Competition in 2004, has agreed to teach his technique of painting on ripstop nylon and make a kite. John's winning kite is a picture of the spirits of the Crow Indians symbolized as large black birds carrying the buffalo ponies that they stole from Lewis & Clark. The Museum hopes to attract kite makers and other artists to depict various images that represent Lewis & Clark's destination here at the Pacific. Those spirits can be plants, animals, canoes, longhouses, pots and baskets, head and other decoration, landscapes etc. If you are a kite maker and prefer a particular kite shape, that's great. For those who are painters, we will help you get the kite made. Begin the creative thoughts, by March more details will be available. For more details www.worldkitemuseum.com

WKA/Sisson Scholarship For 2006

If you are one of our newer members, you might not be aware of the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. If you are interested in the opportunity to take classes in making kites, this conference is a great place to learn all about it. This scholarship was named for one of our Founding Fathers, Tom Sisson, who wanted everyone to have the Fort Worden Experience.

This Conference is held annually in March at the Fort Worden Conference Center in Port Townsend. For three days there are many classes to choose from for simple or more elaborate designs. The classes are taught by local, national and international experts that share their knowledge, and some great kite stories too in their classes.

As a member of this organization, you are entitled to enter a free drawing for a chance to win a scholarship to this conference. The scholarship covers tuition, a room in the dorm, meals and \$50 toward class fees. Entrants must be a current member at the time of the drawing and conference. Mail a post card or note with your name, address and phone number to our mailing address. Your entry **must be received by August 10, 2005**. The drawing will be held at the WKA Spaghetti Feed on Wednesday, August 17, 2005, in Long Beach, WA. You do not have to be present to win, but it would be a lot more exciting!

If you have questions about this scholarship program, contact the Membership Director, Sylvia Bernauer at (425) 822-4605 or dbn1@earthlink.net. Visit www.kitemakers.org for more information about the conference.

WKA Board Members

President

Charly Witaker
belassis@blarg.net

Vice President

Position Available

Treasurer

Carol Lord
carollord@comcast.net

Secretary

Position Available

Membership

Sylvia Bernauer
dbn1@earthlink.net

Education

Ken Conrad
ken@greatwinds.com

Merchant Liaison

Dave Shattuck
dshattuck@hotmail.com

Products

Susie Christenson
kitenut@comcast.net

Special Events Coordinators

Glenda Kleppin
gmakeppin@usa.net
Jerry Graham
jlgraham@usa.net

Newsletter

Dave Christenson (temp)
baysidetrader@comcast.net

Webmaster & Safety

Positions Available

Kite Clubs

Associated Oregon Kites

Contact Judy Brown
Email: judyb7@mindspring.com
P.O. Box 25616
Portland, OR 97298
Membership includes bi-monthly newsletter

Basin Kitefliers Association

Contact Bill Walton
509-765-9111 at email:
BKA@mlfloral.com
Moses Lake Floral
115 W 3rd Ave.
Moses Lake, WA 98837-1930

Ben Franklin Kite Society

Contact Larry Zilar
509-545-6727 or email:
zilarm@charter.net

Lilac City Wind Chasers

Contact Bill Cox
509-327-7974 or email:
cxbil@aol.com
meets every Tuesday at 4pm in
Friendship Park, Greta & North
Standard(7200 block) Spokane, WA

Northwest Fighter Kite Association

meets 3rd weekend of every month,
location varies. For more info:
www.fighterkites.org

Northwest Sport Kite League

Contact Bud Hayes email:
bud@thehayesplace.com Calendar
at www.nwskl.org

Peninsula Breeze Blenders

Contact Bill Rogers or Lisa Ryan
email: lisaryan@mail.com or
billrogers@earthlink.net meets the
2nd Wednesday every month at the
Fire Station on Loxie Egan Blvd.

Pierce County Kitefliers Assn.

Contact Scott Davis email:
prez@pcka.org meets at Summit
Library in Tacoma, 7pm last
Thursday every month.
Calendar at www.pcka.org

Seattle Kitesurfing Association

Contact John Penxa
johnpenxa@seattlekitesurfing.org
www.seattlekitesurfing.org

Squalicum Kite Flyers

Contact Don or Shirley Allen
360-733-3777

Whidbey Island Kite Flyers

Contact Allen or Marjorie Taylor
360-678-9358 meets the 3rd
Saturday every month call for
location.

Westport Windriders

Contact Bary Crites
360-491-8605 or email:
bearkites@aol.com meets 4th
Saturday every month at Grayland
Beach, followed by potluck at
Willapa Grange Hall

American Kitefliers Association

Contact Marla Miller - Regional
Director 253-752-7051 or email:
region10@aka.kite.org Regional
www.aka.kite.org/region10 or
www.aka.kite.org

British Columbia Kite-Flyer Assn.

P.O. Box 755
101-1001 W. Broadway
Vancouver, BC Canada V6H 4E4
Membership: \$20 (CDN)
www.bcka.bc.ca

WKA/PCKA Kite Month Fun Fly

- Orting
by Jerry Graham

Orting is an odd little place about
fifteen or twenty miles east of
Tacoma.

About a mile south of town the
Lions Club has a sports field that
PCKA uses

often for Fun Flies. WKA got to-
gether with PCKA and sponsored
one a few weeks

ago. The field is well maintained
and mowed so it is clear for flying.

Twenty-five or more showed up.
Many of them were dual-line stun-
ters. That

worked well because the winds
were very light and they could prac-
tice low-wind
techniques.

The rest of us ate, drank, and other-
wise made merry. Glenda and I got
to have

three "First Flights", getting to
launch three kites we built at Ft.
Worden and Long Beach. Every-
thing flew just like they were meant
to fly. It

was great. It will always be a thrill
to launch a new kite, and the thrill
really doesn't wear off with subse-
quent launchings.

**Welcome to our Newest
Member:**

Lynn Goldhammer - Seattle, WA

Foster Grandparents Fly at Washington State International Kite Festival by Glenda Kleppin

Time to start getting ready for the "Foster Grandparent" fly at WSIKF. Yes, I know that it's still months away, but I wanted to remind you early as I will need the support of every one of you to make this event an even greater success than it was last year.

Have you forgotten what this is all about or did you miss hearing about it last year? Let me tell you about it again. The event is scheduled in the afternoon on Wednesday, which is always "Children's Day" at WSIKF. This is a mass ascension with several twists: First, adults are allowed on the field only if they are accompanied by a "foster grandchild." You can, if you insist, bring your own grandchild, but it will be more interesting if you adopt someone from the audience. Kids will sign up in advance for the privilege of being adopted for this event.

Second, you will need to bring a kite with you, but—again—there is a twist. You will give the kite to the child to keep and teach the child how to fly it. Third, all participants will receive a special WSIKF pin, designated for this event. Additionally, the top 10 "foster grandparents" will receive a special pin. Those pins will be awarded based on how much fun you are having with your "foster grandchild" rather than how fancy your kite might be.

The real reward for all of us in this event will be the smiles on the faces of the kids. Last year we ended up with about 150 children on the field, happily and successfully flying their new kites, carefully coached by experienced fliers. What a treat to watch them all! Yes, my eyes were a bit blurry, and not just from the wind.

The kite does not have to be fancy and it does not have to be one you made, although hand crafted kites are "extra special" to the receiving children. If you forget to bring an extra kite, the kite museum will have small, relatively inexpensive kites available for purchase.

Feel free to adopt more than one child. Last year, Karen Highfield adopted 50 children as a part of a birthday party that she threw for herself! And if you can't be there, help out anyway by bringing or sending me any extra kites that you want to give away and I will find someone to take the kite to the field.

This event cannot be successful without YOUR support. Last year only one child was left without someone to adopt him. However, the weather was blustery that day and so there were probably not as many kids as there would have been in better weather. Based on that, we need LOTS more participants for this year! Please do your part to share your joy of kites with these enthusiastic youngsters and join them in being kids for that day.

National Kite Month by Glenda Kleppin

There are numerous ways to promote kites within the community. Let me tell you what Jerry, Susie (Empress of the Universe) and I have done for the past several years:

First of all, our local library (Bonney Lake) has a large, high, open ceiling area crisscrossed by open pipes. Not a visually appealing area, to say the least! We had a large number of kites—purchased usually on impulse—that we seldom, if ever, flew any more. Three years ago, we put those kites up as a permanent display in that part of the library. For kite month this year, we took down those kites—by now well covered with dust—and put up a new set of kites. We also added several kites to the children's reading area. (continued next page)

We have a second type of display at the library that we put up only during kite month. We post a display board (like the kind used for science exhibits) that has pictures of kite and kiting events; lists of kite-related websites; lists of library books about kites; the schedule for the coming year's kite events in the area; as well as resources we download from the National Kite Month website.

Additionally, for the past three years, we have put up an exhibit at our local Office Depot. Such wasted space with it's high ceilings! Jerry can easily hang a dozen of our bigger kites there, without having to worry about winds or crossed strings. Jerry says it's the only time he can decorate a whole sky without crossed string or wind problems. It represents the most kites we ever manage to get up at one time. We also put up a display board, similar to the one we put up at the library.

The nice thing about the science fair type of displays is that we leave them put together from year to year, so there is little to do except update the events calendar. Also, they are available in case we want to haul them out and use them at other times of the year. Obviously, for many of us, kiting (whether making or flying) is a year-around activity, even more so now that both Washington and Oregon have winter indoor kite events .

Fort Worden—New Amoeba Kites

by Jerry Graham

First, I want to thank the membership of WKA for supporting the annual drawing for a WKA sponsored tuition to the Kitemakers Workshop at Ft. Worden. The drawing is open to any WKA member who sends in a postcard asking to be in the drawing. Last year there were only thirteen entries received and I was the lucky winner. Whoopee! I had a great time building Mike and Kay Woodring's five foot bowl, Mike Mosman's Kichi Tako (where I also got to be the teaching assistant—and that is another whole article), and then I took a real challenge—Brooks Leffler's Kite Aerial Photography (KAP) rig. (And no, I still haven't managed to finish the rig.)

The Kichi Tako is a fascinating new design by Mike Mosman. It looks like two tacos stuck together (Hence the name Kichi Tako, or "Crazy Kite") and it flies very well in up to about 12-15 mph winds. Over that it gets quite squirrely. Even better, it is superb for indoor or no-wind conditions. Mike put on a show with a Kichi Tako at the AKA convention in Seaside, OR, that you had to see to believe! Even more fun, the kite is an Amoeba Class kite so it can be flown with all the other Amoebas. (Huh? Oh, an Amoeba is a single-cell kite. A Circo-flex, Popcans, Triads, and, by management decree, the Harlequin kites are all single-cell kites.)

"What's a Harlequin?" you may ask. One of the classes at Ft. Worden that Glenda took built a delightful five-spar open center sorta square and sorta triangular kite called a Harlequin. It takes a little more than 3-4mph winds but is very stable in flight.

The Presidents Corner

Hello,

I am so glad to see the warmer winds and weather coming our way. I greatly enjoy traveling to the different events, and seeing many of you along the way. The colder weather sort of slows down the number of events going on, and the people that attend those events, as it usually drives everyone into flying indoors to avoid the cold and wet outside. I would like to give a huge thanks to the PCKA, their president, and all of the others involved in putting on their annual indoor event in Long Beach, WA. As it was a big hit as usual. Their National Kite Month fly was a great event as well. I believe there is going to be a report about it in this issue. I missed it this year, but I have talked to a few who made it there, and they say it was a great event, except for light winds.

I am also really looking forward to this years WKA "Fathers Day" kite fly on June 19th. If you were there last year you may remember my 8-month daughter Ashley Monique being there with me, well she will be 20 months old this year, and "kite" was one of her first words after "mama" and "dada". She loves to set in my lap and point to the kites on the walls in the living room. She especially loves a New Tech SLK "Butterfly" on the wall near the fireplace in the front room. I cant wait to take her out kite flying for the very first time, and have ordered her a kite, and line. Her half sister Kimberly already has a couple of SLK's of her own. I am looking forward to the day the sisters fly together for the first time...LOL

This is the start of my 4th year as your president, and I would like to thank those of you that have sent me your comments, feedback, or gripes. I really appreciate the things you have brought to my attention, and I encourage any of the WKA members to send me your thoughts and feelings, as the WKA is here because of its members, and we want to know how we can better serve our members. I would also like to ask that any of the members with articles, ideas, pictures, and event dates contact the WKA ASAP so we can list it in our news letter or add it to the WKA web site. For those of you who haven't been to the WKA web site recently (<http://www.wka-kiteflyers.org/>) you should go check it out. Thanks to Rick White, and all who have pitched in to help him, the web site has a new look and feel. I am excited by the work they have done.

Sincerely

Charly Whitaker

ps: for a more complete events calendar go to: www.wka-kiteflyers.org or www.pcka.org
the editor



6



Book Review: The Kite that Won the Revolution by Isaac Asimov

artical by: Glenda Kleppin

It is fun to just check through the list of kite books in any library you might visit. At the linary on Fort Lewis, I recently discovered a true gem of a book, written in 1963 by one of our generation's foremost science authors. The book was written for kids of about 4th grade, but explained, in simple language, scientific concepts that I have never before really understood--like electricity. (Now I know why that generation is so much smarter than I am.)

But the absolutely outstanding part of the book, for purposes of the kite community, is Asimov's hypothesis that, without Benjamin Franklin's kite experiments, France would never have helped the American colonist win their War of Independence. As the book explains, Franklin became world famous for his kite experiments because they led to the general use of lightening rods, not just in the Americas but all over Europe. As Asimov states, Franklin "made himself the only American known by name to the cultivated men of Europe.

When it became apparent the colonists needed help to win independence, Franklin made the difficult journey to France and appealed to the aristocracy for their support. Asimov tells us that these aristocrats "could not get enough of him. He charmed them all, and all they wanted to do was help that old man and his country." He goes on to avow: "It was Franklin's kite that allows us to live in an independent United States of America today."

What a concept! What a plug to put in for the importance of kites in history! What a great story to pass on during National Kite Month!

Empty Place in the Sky -- Elliott N. Couden

This former member passed away December 8, 2004 at the age of 93 in Seattle. Ken Conrad recently told a story about Elliott and the club name.

Elliot was one of the members who attended a meeting one day long ago. The group included Dave Checkley, Jack Van Gilder, Bill Spezia and Ken among others. The subject of a name for the group of kite flyers came up. Some suggestions were made and Ken Conrad thought it should be something like the Puget Sound Kitefliers. The group was mainly from Seattle area at the time. But Elliott Couden insisted that the name of the Washington Kitefliers Association be the official name. His vision was reaching out to a broader scope than the few flying friends at the time.

So now we know the story of how WKA got its name.

WKA Board Meeting

March 12, 2005, 1:00 p.m., Ken Conrad's House

Attending: Charly Whitaker, Ken Conrad, Jerry Graham & Glenda Kleppin, Dave, Christenson, Susie Christenson, Sylvia Bernauer and consultant Rick White. (1 officer, 5 committee chairmen, 1 non-board member)

We have open officer positions of Vice President and Secretary and Committee heads for Merchant Liaison, Safety, and Newsletter being filled on a temporary basis. As long as we can continue to have five Officers or Committee heads for a quorum, we can continue to conduct club business.

Carol Lord prepared the Treasurer's report. There are some expenditures this year that are not typical, like funds going to the World Kite Museum. Income from the spaghetti feed was down this past year.

Carol will continue to do the job of Treasurer, including filing taxes, but she will not help take dinner money at the spaghetti feed. We need to find someone to fill that seat.

Regarding the spaghetti feed, Dave & Susie will coordinate the kitchen and hopefully enough volunteers will be found to fill the other jobs. Charly will MC.

Sylvia gave Membership report. Over the past five years we continue with renewal rate around 75%. New memberships have been down in the past few years, and with lapses, we are now averaging 150 households, down from the average 200 we used to be five years ago. Other clubs' memberships are down also, or have folded, which still makes WKA the biggest and oldest kite club in the state.

A copy of current member database information back to 2002 was given to Dave & Susie for club backup. Also shared was the list of exchange newsletters with other clubs. Those groups not exchanging newsletters with WKA will be dropped from our mailings.

The newsletter on the web site could be a members-only area by way of a message to current paid-up members with a link to the web page. It is important that the paid-up members have first priority if current newsletters were on the site. Traveling members could then access the newsletter. Details would have to be worked out to be able to do this.

Rick White reported on hits on the club web site. As of 3/12/05 the counter read 2657. In two months we had 426 hits, some of which are because of maintenance and revision work. It could average at about 200 hits per month. New pages have been added, and upcoming events could be featured on the home page. The calendar of events has been expanded.

Upcoming events: Joint National Kite Month fly with PCKA is planned for Orting on April 10. Proposed April 23-24 fun fly planned in Everett, and possible June 11-12 in North Bend, details not available. It is not too soon to start planning permits, equipment and volunteers for the Father's Day fly.

Glenda reported that the Foster Grandparent's Fly was reported on in other publications. Plans for pins designed by Jack Judd have been made for 2005. Glenda made a motion to order 20 pins from Jack Judd for the 2005 Foster Grandparent Fly. Charly seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. (Last year pins were about \$15 for 10 of them, so anticipated cost about \$30 for 20 pins.) The 2005 event has a page on the web site.

Charly reported that he has information on a \$200,000 grant for kite events for handicapped people. He knows a grant writer who would help with the process. Possibly the Veterans or other organization could help plan and provide volunteers. It would have to take place at a location with enough facilities and parking for the handicapped. Some funds could go to WKA, and the rest to the organizations involved. This would have to be a project for next year.

The Memorial Kite Arch project was discussed. Additions to the list were approved. The arch has not been started.

Meeting adjourned and Rick White took photos of those attending. Thanks to Ken and Suzanne for the refreshments.

Revised 3/19/05 Minutes taken by Sylvia Bernauer

John Freeman's classes—every President's Day Weekend at Long Beach

John and Marzlie Freeman have been teaching a class at Long Beach every President's Day weekend for longer than Glenda and I have been involved with kiting. We have taken several of the classes and they are always great. This year was no exception. The classes are provided by the World Kite Museum and this year we left the old grade school gymnasium behind and used the museum's brand new building. The lighting was much better and when we took breaks the view was outstanding.

The class always requires a lot of sewing because most of the kites are based on log cabin quilt techniques. That's why a three-day weekend works out well. This year's kite is basically a square balanced on one corner, sparred like an Indian fighter kite. Most of the kites came out just under five feet square and can be bridled to provide a lot of lift with strong winds.

I am undoubtedly prejudiced, but I think mine was the prettiest kite made this year. We finally got to have its' "First Flight" at Orting a few weeks ago and it is spectacular in the air. You will see it at festivals all summer, and with any luck at all it will go to AKA's Convention in Ocean City MD next fall.

WKA Website:

by Glenda Kleppin

Speaking of the WKA website, remember to check it often. Thanks to the hard work of Rick White, the website now contains an up-to-date calendar for kite activities planned for the rest of the year in Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. Each month there are reminders of the events that are scheduled for that month, along with maps to find many of the events. Past events are commemorated by an ever-growing picture gallery. Many other new features have been added, including updated links to the websites of many kite clubs, well-known kites, and kite clubs. The site is a work-in-progress and pictures and/or input from all WKA members is greatly appreciated, so don't be afraid to let Rick know if your event is not listed; if you have pictures to contribute; or if you find a great link that you think should be added.

Father's Day—Seattle Celebration of Kites

Come to Kite Hill (Magnuson Park) on June 19th and celebrate Father's Day by flying kites. Check the WKA website if you need a map to get there. There will be a kitemaking tent for kids and the young at heart; single line kites; and activities for sports kites. Bring your own picnic or join friends for a potluck meal. As always, WKA will provide water and shade. We are looking for someone to volunteer to be the Safety Officer for this event. If you can help, please contact Charly Whitaker.

Washington Kitefliers Association
An affiliate of the American Kitefliers Association
Membership Application

By becoming a member of WKA, you receive the WKA Newsletter every other month for a year, a membership card which entitles you to discounts at some area kite stores, and a wealth of information about special events and goings-on in the Northwest kiting community.

Join the WKA and share the fun! Find out more about the fastest growing popular pastime in the United States today. WKA meetings offer individuals and families the opportunity to participate in the administrative support and planning of local kite events and workshops. Membership cost per household in the US or Canada is \$15.00. Fill out this application and return it with a check or money order payable in US funds.

Membership	_____
Washington Kitefliers Association	Name _____
C/O Pacific Science Center	Address _____
200 Second Ave. North	City/State/Zip _____
Seattle, WA 98109	_____
Visit us on the web at	Phone/E-Mail _____
www.wka-kiteflyers.org	Names of additional family members _____

Washington Kitefliers Association
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